



THE NATIONAL Voter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

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A seed, says Webster, is "condition of overripeness, decay, as gone to seed" . . . "progeny, descendants" . . . "that from which anything springs."

When the League is called a seed organization, as it often is, one trusts that the first definition does not come to mind, even though the League has been in existence more than 40 years.

Any Leaguer, however, will gladly admit to the second and third.

The League is progeny. It is the descendant of an organization which took many years to produce its first and only crop. The organization was the National American Woman Suffrage Association; the crop, votes for women. The seed was planted in 1848 when the first Woman's Rights Convention was called by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott. Seventy-two years later, on the historic day of August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment was proclaimed in effect. Carrie Chapman Catt, successor of Mrs. Stanton and Susan B. Anthony as president of the NAWSA, was able to say: "The vote is won!"

The NAWSA, though now no longer necessary, carried within itself another seed—the League of Women Voters—and the last convention of the NAWSA in 1920 became the League's first.

As a newspaper reporter covering that convention in Chicago wrote:

"The proof of a good workman is the way he leaves his job for another to take it up . . . Mrs. Catt had a great organization . . . and she knew that with the passing of the amendment for woman suffrage, her day as an organizer was over. She

could have scrapped the organization or she could have left it such a welter of cross purposes that no leader could have directed it . . .

"What she did was to change it to meet the new conditions. . . ."

One decision made was that officers of the NAWSA should not serve on the League's Board.

As Mrs. Catt put it, the new organization needed "younger women with a fresh approach to affairs."

Votes for...Votes of

What was the League, then, in 1920?

Its membership was and still is one of "younger women with a fresh approach to public affairs." (The average age of delegates at the 1960 Convention was 43.)

Purpose of the "progeny" is essentially the same as expressed by Maud Wood Park, first national President of the League:

"The actual work of the League—the end for which organization supplies the means—is, first of all, training for citizenship."

Under her presidency, citizenship schools were initiated for women who, according to *The Woman Citizen*, "were heretofore frightened cold at the immodesty of betraying an interest in the ballot."

Even exercising one's vote was in itself not easy—*The Woman Citizen* reported in October 1920 that "Oklahoma women registered at the point of pistols." Ill will ran so high in that state that women had to be protected by sheriffs in order to register for that year's elections.

Today, through its nonpartisan Voters Service work and through its

study-and-action Program on local, state, and national issues, the League still adheres to the purpose of promoting political responsibility, though the pistol-packing days are over.

Sowing and Reaping

The League is certainly "that from which anything springs." Each of the 1,120 local Leagues has sown ideas from which have sprung improvements in local government.

In all 50 states Leagues have initiated projects, proposals, reforms and have seen the ideas grow and take hold in other interested citizens and groups. Like rainmakers, League members have "seeded" the clouds of public opinion.

Here's how 30 members of the newly-formed Lee Summit, Missouri, League put into practice their idea "to study and help educate citizens on bonding elections and local voting procedures."

When a \$2,212,000 sewer-bond proposal for the city was made the League initiated a campaign to get out the vote.

Every citizen in the telephone directory (city population, 8,267) was called and urged to vote, and four telephones were manned to offer information on polling places; trans-

"You can't take it with you" . . .
but you can make sure it will do
League work.

Here are three simple ways:

1. Make a direct bequest to the League in your will.
 2. Provide for a direct transfer.
 3. Set up a trust.
- Consult your bank and your attorney as to how best to carry out your wishes.

portation and baby sitters were provided; poll checkers were enlisted so as to telephone a second time those who had not yet voted.

Result? The bond issue carried by a 10-to-1 majority and city officials gave the League public recognition for its efforts.

Some Crops Are Slow

Things happened fast in Lee Summit, Missouri.

But harvest time may be a long time coming. Years may go by before a project takes hold in the community soil and bears fruit.

It took 11 years for 58 members of the East Providence, Rhode Island, League (population, 41,955) to achieve a new charter government for their city.

After a *Know Your Town* survey the League published a booklet in 1948; this was followed by a study of various forms of city government, for the facts showed that East Providence had "long languished under an antiquated town-meeting form of government that enabled small pressure groups to control city affairs."

Despite stiff opposition, it worked for home rule and, when that was finally won, campaigned for a council-manager plan. It promoted the formation of a Citizens League to further local interest in a charter and to be active in areas where policy would not permit the League to be active, arranged for hearings, and on May 1, 1959, 11 years later, citizens voted and adopted the council-manager plan.

Iowa City League in Iowa started a study of its city water services in 1949, revised its report in 1951 and 1953, but not until 1959 did other groups in the city become interested.

Now there is a Citizens Advisory Committee on water and a professional sanitary engineering firm has been called in to make a report.

Twelve years is a long time—and it may take another 12 before the city has better water service. But Leagues are not easily discouraged by long-term projects. After all, it took 72 years to win the vote.

What other sort of projects do Leagues take on at a local level?

Like Burpee's Seed Company, Leagues have not only petunias and primroses on its packages, but also the less esthetic but more nutritious beans, beets, and carrots.

Thus do Leagues have as part of

their Programs such things as taxes and finance, planning and zoning, traffic systems, and others which though colorless to the onlooker, are integral to community life.

What were League Programs for 1960-61? Some 530 dealt with education and schools; 424, planning and zoning; 248, city manager government and charter revision; 187, financing, taxes, budgets; 158, health and hospitals; 151, juvenile problems; 116, metropolitan affairs.

As said recently by Paul Williams in his column in *The South Omaha Sun*, Nebraska: "In these busy, busy times of good works abroad, it seems appropriate to say a word about a group that is practicing democracy in a local, practical, work-your-fingers-to-the-bone sort of way. . . . I'm referring to the League of Women Voters . . . and I am impressed by their down-to-earth approach to local politics."

Toil and Till

"Work-your-fingers-to-the-bone" is not an overstatement. Only through the effort, the woman-hours of energetic members, is the League able to accomplish so much. League budgets are minimal, and it is chiefly the volunteer work of members that does the job. For example, the 61 members of the League of Women Voters of Bountiful, Utah, with a far-from-bountiful budget were able to reach with their 1960 Voters Service work every home in the county (Davis), which has a population of 64,760.

Thus time and money, carefully seeded, bear fruit far beyond expectations.

From Field to Field

What a League does locally spreads into the wider communities of state and nation.

The Lexington, Kentucky, League, for example, has been concerned with the financing of its school system. In 1959, school bond issues were defeated and the community found itself without adequate funds to keep up with the increase in school population.

The League initiated a study of school systems and ways of financing an expanded program. Through a citizens committee, members have spearheaded a drive to consider raising money through property reassessment.

Meanwhile, on a state level this League along with others is working on one of the state Program items: "Maintain and improve teacher certification in Kentucky."

Leagues not only pursue local and state issues; they also tackle national issues.

Development of water resources is increasingly in the news, and since 1956 the subject has been part of the League's national Program and of many local and state League Programs as well. Activities have included river basin studies, testimony before local councils and state legislative and congressional committees, and support of anti-pollution measures.

Senator Kerr (D., Okla.), who headed the Senate Select Committee on National Water Resources, said: "The Leagues have made one of the most valued contributions that have been made to this series of hearings."

And California Governor Brown said of the California Leagues and their work last year on a state water program: "Without the League's very effective support it is indeed doubtful that we today would be in a position to proceed with a . . . program essential to . . . our entire state."

In short, the League of Women Voters, though small in budget and relatively small in membership, has "seeded" communities as best it can with new ideas and approaches to government. In the process its membership, too, has matured.

The Eugene, Oregon, *Register-Guard* noted that "The League may have been born of suffragette impulses, but it has matured to become one of the leading forces in the critical analysis of governmental problems and the general enlightenment of the public on these problems."

"To promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government," the League's defined purpose, may take many forms—bond issues, charter revisions, school financing, a sewage disposal system.

But it is in this climate of local participation that self-government flourishes.

IF YOU MOVE and wish to continue to receive THE NATIONAL VOTER you must notify your League of your new address, giving old address at same time.

KULP (Keeping Up with League Program) (As of July 17)

FOREIGN POLICY: Act for International Development (AID): Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs Committees are still meeting in executive sessions on S. 1983 and H.R. 7372, authorizing legislation for the foreign aid program. Controversy in the committees centers around the proposal for long-term financing through Treasury borrowing. Some Republican members of the committees made compromise proposals July 13 for multi-year authorization combined with annual congressional appropriations which the original proposal of the Administration would avoid.

Miss Barbara Stuhler, a national Director of the League, testified before both the Senate and House committees June 20.

The bills are expected to be debated in the Senate and House later this month.

Foreign Investment: H.R. 7102 (Rep. Multer, D., N. Y.) and H.R. 7103 (Rep. Widnall, R., N. J.) would create an American Export Credits Guaranty Corporation to guarantee contracting export firms from political or commercial loss. Referred to House Banking and Currency Committee.

S. 1965 (jointly sponsored by Senators Javits, R., N. Y.; Beall, R., Md.; Hartke, D., Ind.; Smathers, D., Fla.) would establish a Peace by Investment Corporation to promote private investment in economic development projects in developing countries. Referred to Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Foreign Commerce Act: Senate Commerce Committee held series of hearings on S. 1729, to expand services of Commerce and State Departments and Small Business Administration, establish a Foreign Commerce Corps, and authorize Export-Import Bank to make export credit guarantees against loss.

Disarmament Agency: Bills to establish a U. S. Disarmament Agency for World Peace and Security were introduced June 29: S. 2180, by Sen. Humphrey (D., Minn.) and 8 other Senators, was referred to Senate Government Operations Committee; H.R. 7936, by Rep. Morgan (D., Pa.), was referred to House Foreign Affairs Committee.

TRADE. Textile Conference: Key

importing and exporting countries convened July 17 in Geneva to discuss trade in cotton textiles. The conference, arranged through GATT at request of the United States, will consider arrangements for the orderly development of cotton textile trade, including increasing the export possibilities of less-developed countries and Japan, while avoiding disruption of import markets.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT. Pollution Control: House July 13 and Senate July 14 took final action on H.R. 6441, Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments, by accepting conference report. The Act as passed 1) named Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare as administrator of pollution control program, 2) provided for water storage, in part nonreimbursable, to allow release (for pollution abatement) downstream during low water, 3) provided these funds for sewage-treatment plant construction: \$80 million in fiscal 1962, \$90 million in fiscal '63, \$100 million for each of fiscal years '64 through '67, 4) continued federal authority to start action against any city or industry polluting interstate lakes and streams, and added authority for federal action on intrastate streams at the request of the Governor of a state.

State Water Planning: Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee held a hearing July 10 on S. 1629, introduced by Sen. Anderson (D., N.M.) and others, to provide funds to states for comprehensive water-resources planning. Mrs. Haskell Rosenblum, a national Director of the League, testified in support of federal grants-in-aid to states for this purpose.

On July 14 Sen. Anderson announced that S. 1629 would be dropped in favor of Administration's water-resources bill which he had introduced that day (S. 2246). The new bill proposes coordinated planning through establishment of a Water Resources Council and river basin commissions, and financial assistance to states for such planning. Referred to Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee.

Companion bill in the House, introduced by Rep. Aspinall (D., Colo.), is H.R. 8177.

Delaware River Basin Compact: House passed H.J. Res. 225, to grant consent of Congress to Delaware River Basin Compact, June 29. Bill was sent to Senate and referred to Judiciary Committee.

Northeastern Water and Related Land Resources Compact: H.R. 30 was reported by House Public Works Committee June 28 (House Report 707). House action is expected soon.

D. C. HOME RULE: President Kennedy sent to Congress July 14 draft of proposed legislation to give District of Columbia elected mayor, city council, and nonvoting delegate in House of Representatives.

House legislation was introduced by Rep. Cohelan (D., Calif.) as H.R. 8178 and by Rep. Multer (D., N. Y.) as H.R. 8184. Sen. Bible (D., Nev.), Chairman of Senate District of Columbia Committee, promised to introduce Senate bill soon.

The Senate, which has passed D. C. Home Rule bill five times, may again act this term. Chairman McMillan (D., S. C.) of House District Committee told the press that he sees no chance of House action.

Copies of League testimony available from national office, 5 cents a copy. Congressional bills and reports available free (order by number) from House or Senate Document Room, Washington 25, D. C.

CONVENTION DEADLINES

The 25th national Convention of the League will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, April 30 to May 4, 1962.

Deadlines appear below. Dates given mean postmark dates, with the one exception noted.

November 30, 1961: Recommendations for the national Program and for amendments to the national By-laws to be sent to the national Board.

February 14, 1962: Proposed Program, and proposed changes in By-laws with the Board's recommendations, to be sent to the Leagues by the national Board.

February 28, 1962: Report of the Nominating Committee to be sent to the Leagues.

April 9, 1962: Recommendations for changes in the Proposed Program to be received in the national office.

WHY PEOPLE TRADE

Trade, as a regular series of acts of exchanging goods and services, has long been a feature of life in all societies. Whether such exchanges take place in accordance with customs of a primitive society or in accordance with sophisticated modern methods, certain basic motives can be identified.

To Get What's Needed

Most striking is the motive of economic necessity, which urges the acquisition of goods that are needed and are not obtainable except through barter or trade. The South Pacific natives of the Trobriand Islands who catch fish exchange them with others who grow vegetables, thus both groups get a balanced diet. In many parts of Africa large, well-regulated markets exist for the exchange of corn, firewood, and iron, to the mutual benefit of the traders.

A modern country like the United States imports certain products out of necessity. Vital to national defense are some 66 strategic materials such as natural rubber, tin, aluminum, bauxite, mica, manganese, tungsten, cobalt, chromite, bismuth. To operate industry not related to defense, materials such as linseed oil, talc, castor oil, hardwoods, burlap, and hemp are needed.

We must buy these and other items from countries of Asia, Africa, the Near East, and Latin America. In return, we export to these regions things they need, such as machinery, transportation equipment, various manufactured goods.

To Get What's Wanted

Trading to acquire necessities merges into trading to acquire things that are merely desirable. The Trobriand people, after they have bargained for fish and vegetables, exchange arm shells and necklaces.

The desire for spices, silks, sugar, and ivory from the East motivated European traders of the 14th and 15th centuries to make long and perilous journeys, indeed motivated them to search for new and swifter trade routes. The Europeans had substantial woolen clothing to wear, but they wanted silk.

Just so, in the United States today we consume many imports which we

would be most unwilling to give up. We could perhaps get along without coffee, tea, spices, some types of porcelain, linens, liquors, wines, art and handicraft items—but who wants to?

We are devoted to maintaining and raising our standard of living, and that implies a wide range of consumer goods and freedom of personal choice. It also implies that consumers should not have to pay high prices for goods that could only with difficulty or at high cost be produced at home when other countries can readily supply them at reasonable prices.

To Sell Specialties

The other side of importing necessities or merely desirable goods is, of course, exporting those products which a country is able to produce advantageously or of which it produces a surplus. U. S. exports that have recently found expanded markets abroad include cotton, aircraft, machinery, trucks, metals, chemicals, wheat, soybeans. Similarly, continental Europe's exports of both industrial and consumer goods increased in 1959 and 1960.

As Products Compete

Obviously, difficulties do not arise within a country when it imports things it needs or desires, or when it exports things of which it has plenty. Problems come, in a limited and specific way, when some imports are similar or identical to items produced at home and threaten to take up an increasing share of the home market.

For instance, although 44 percent of U. S. imports from Hong Kong do not compete with U. S. products, the other 56 percent—comprising cotton textiles, electronic equipment, nails and bolts, barbed wire, stainless steel flatware—do compete.

The question then arises whether domestic producers need to be protected against the competition of these particular imports. If so, there are choices: import quotas, higher tariffs, adjustments or remedies not involving trade restrictions. The effects of such alternatives would have to be weighed before a decision could be made.

As Factors Complicate

Other broad factors can and do complicate the exchange of goods between nations. Trade often becomes involved with political or military considerations that are important to a country at a given time.

For example, Great Britain wishes to maintain close ties with the Commonwealth nations and therefore offers them trade advantages which greatly augment their export earnings. If for other reasons Britain wishes to join the European Economic Community, what adjustments would satisfy the Commonwealth nations which are used to free entry into British markets?

As another example, U. S. trade practices were vastly influenced by the commitment to supply war materials to the democratic nations during World War II and relief supplies and reconstruction equipment after the war.

Today, the relationship between U. S. aid and trade policies sets up a variety of problems. Since the United States is committed to a policy of aid to promote economic development in the newer countries, it must formulate a trade policy that does not cancel but supplements the accomplishments of the aid policy.

The critical period is still to come, when the industrialized nations will have to decide whether to accept rising manufactured exports of the low-income countries or to set those countries apart as "poor relations" in the world economy, capable only of trading with each other and supplying raw materials to the industrialized countries.

Trade among nations can be relatively simple, then, or it can be tied to situations so complex that the utmost intelligence and clear-sightedness must be exerted in order to construct and maintain wise and workable trade policies.

THE NATIONAL VOTER

Vol. XI July-August 1961 No. 4

Published 10 times a year, monthly with exception of August and December, by the League of Women Voters of the United States

1026 17th St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C.
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Second class postage paid at

Washington, D. C.

Subscriptions: \$1.00 a year in United States and U. S. territories and possessions, Canada, Mexico;

all other countries, \$1.50 a year;
single copy: 10 cents

(Quantity prices on request)

Printed by National Publishing Co.